(b) if so, the details of the capacity utilization during the years 2008 and 2009, and requirement and supply of coal to this plant during the same period; and

(c) the steps being taken to supply sufficient coal, to utilize the full capacity of the plant?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) The Kayamkulam plant (Rajeev Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Plant) (350 MW) of NTPC Limited operates with liquid fuel (Naphtha), not with coal. There has not been any shortage of fuel at Kayamkulam Station.

The capacity utilization *i.e.* Plant Load Factor (PLF) of this plant was 61.6% and 87.4% during the years 2008 and 2009 (Jan-June, 2009) respectively. The less capacity utilization is mainly due to low schedules given by the beneficiary state power utilities and not due to fuel shortage.

Road-map for development of NER

*240.SHRI LALHMING LIANA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn up a concrete road-map for the development of the North Eastern Region; and

(b) if so, the details of Government's action plan in respect of rural infrastructure, generation of employment and power generation?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry for the Development of the North Eastern Region has prepared the North Eastern Region Vision 2020 document after extensive consultations with the State Governments of the North Eastern Region, Central Government Ministries, experts and civil society. The document was adopted by the North-Eastern Council in its 56th meeting held at Agartafa, on 12-13 May 2008. It was formally released by the Honourable Prime Minister on 2nd July 2008 in New Delhi. The Vision document provides a road-map, outlines the goals, identifies the challenges and suggests implementation strategies for various sectors for peace, prosperity and development of the North Eastern Region.

(b) I. The NER Vision 2020 suggests the following over arching strategies:

(i) Empowerment of people for self governance and participatory development.

(ii) Promote development through expansion and modernisation of agricultural and allied sector activity combined with expansion of non-farm economic. activities to create jobs/employment opportunities.

(iii) Development of sectors with comparative advantages based on resources available in the region particularly in hydroelectric sector and tourism.

(iv) Capacity building of both Government and market institutions.

(v) Creating a hospitable investment climate with state-of-art infrastructure for enhanced trade and commerce.

(vi) Ensuring significant investment by both public and private sectors for strengthening physical and social infrastructure.

II. It also suggests the following broad objectives:

(i) Improve the indices of development for the region to catch up with the rest of the country;

(ii) Structural transformation of the economies of the NE States by effecting significant changes in development strategies to achieve higher growth rates of GSDP to equal to national averages;

(iii) Poverty eradication based on participatory planning and with private sector participation for growth;

(iv) Maximizing self-governance by building capacity of people, institutions and traditional / local institutions to enable participation in the growth process;

(v) Harnessing available local resources for development;

(vi) Substantial strengthening of infrastructure;

(vii) Expand trade and commerce in the region;

(viii) Effective governance for establishing peace and harmony.

III. The Ministry for the Development of the North Eastern Region implements the following schemes which contribute *inter-alia* to the development of rural infrastructure, generation of employment and power generation:

(i) The Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) Scheme funds infrastructure development projects, *inter-alia,* for roads, bridges, power transmission and water supply in the North Eastern States. The Planning Commission has provided an allocation of Rs. 3095 crore under NLCPR scheme for the 11 Plan period.

(ii) The North Eastern Council (NEC) implements projects, *inter-alia,* for roads, bridges, power transmission and water supply in the North Eastern States. The Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 7394.00 crore to the NEC for 11th Plan period. Out of this Rs.4298.38 crore, Rs. 957.22 crore and Rs. 139.57 crore are proposed to be utilized for transport and communication, power sector development and water supply schemes respectively.

(iii) This Ministry also implements a Plan Scheme of Capacity Building and Technical Assistance under which vocational training is imparted through reputed institutes to the youth of North Eastern Region so as to provide them employable and entrepreneurial skills. Rs. 78.90 crore has been allocated by the Planning Commission under this, scheme.

IV. As per extant policy of the Government of India, 51 non-exempted Ministries and Departments of the Union Government are required to spend at least 10% of their Gross Budgetary Support for the NE Region.

V. For the improvement of rural infrastructure, the Ministry of Rural Development implements several schemes of rural development and poverty alleviation in the States of North Eastern

Region. These include, *inter-alia,* the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and Swaranjayanti Gram Swamrojgar Yojana (SGSY) for poverty alleviation and employment generation in rural areas. The other schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development - Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojarra (PMGSY), Integrated Watershed Management Programmes (IWMP), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) are also being implemented for providing basic amenities and area development for rural areas. These programmes are implemented in all the States and Union Territories including the North Eastern Region, NREGA, SGSY, IAY and ARWSP are implemented in programme mode and PMGSY, TSC and IWMP are implemented in project mode. Under PMGSY scheme, in new connectivity Stage-I, 15246 km roads are proposed to be constructed connecting 6781 habitations between 2008 to 2015.

VI. The Department of Drinking Water Supply is implementing several schemes under the Bharat Nirman Programme. The Bharat Nirman Programme has covered 44457 habitations in NER and 4801 habitations remain to be covered. The Department, under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) has released Rs.2292.40 crore from 2005-06 to 2009-10 to the NER.

VII. Ministry of Power is implementing various power generation schemes to augment power generation in the North Eastern Region. During the 11th Plan, a total of 6088 MW capacity addition is proposed to be added in the North Eastern Region including Sikkim. The power projects that are proposed to be developed in the North Eastern Region during 11th Plan include:

(i) Lower Subansiri (2000 MW) and Kameng (600MW) Power Projects in Arunachal Pradesh,

(ii) Bongaigaon (750 MW) and Lakawah (37.2 MW) Power Projects in Assam.

(iii Myntdu Leshka (126 MW) and New Umtru (40 MW) Power Projects in Meghataya.

(iv) Palatana (726 MW) Gas based Power Project in Tripura.

(v) Teesta V-U 1,2,3 (510MW), Teesta III (1200 MW) and Chujachen (99 MW) Power Projects in Sikkim.

(vi) During the 12th Plan, Teesta VI (4 x 125 MW) and Rangit IV (3 x 40 MW) hydro power project are proposed to be taken up in Sikkim.

VIII. Director General, Employment and Training (DGE&T), Ministry of Labour and Employment has implemented a scheme for North Eastern States wherein two new ITIs were set up and 35 existing ITIs upgraded at a cost of Rs.106.55 crore. Three more new ITIs are being set up in Assam and Sikkim which will increase the existing seating capacity from 7244 to 16,144. In addition, 15 more existing ITIs are being upgraded under the Vocational Training Improvement Project with World Bank assistance. These schemes are expected to improve skill levels of the youth and enhance their employability.

IX. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion implements the North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP), 2007 with a view to promote industrialization and employment generation in the region. NEIIPP 2007 has several components such as capital investment subsidy @ 30% of the investment in plant and machinery without any upper sealing, interest subsidy of 3% on working capital loan availed by the industrial unit, 100% reimbursement of insurance premium and 100% income tax and excise duty exemptions etc. Under NEIIPP, 2007, 140 Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandums / Letters of Intent have been received in 2007-08 and 2008-09.

WRITTEN ANSWERS UNSTARRED TO QUESTIONS

Coal production

1641. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has reportedly asked the State Governments to fast-track coal output in the country;

(b) if so', the number of coal blocks/mines allocated by Government during the last four years, indicating the number of such blocks that have become operational, as on date;

(c) how many hectares of captive blocks are lying idle, indicating the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government proposes to appoint a coal regulator to help in expediting the process of coal production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of coal blocks allocated during the last four years is given below:-

Year	No. of coal blocks allocatted
2005-06	43
2006-07	34
2007-08	53
2008-09	19

Out of the above coal blocks allocated, one coal block has come into production. Remaining blocks are at various stages of development.

(c) Allocation of coal blocks is done on the basis of quantum of geological reserves. The coal blocks allocated upto May 2009 contains geological reserves of about 45 billion tonnes. 25 coal blocks containing geological reserves of about 2.29 billion tonnes have come into production so far. The remaining blocks are under different stages of development. Coal mining projects have a relatively longer gestation period on account of time involved in land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation and other statutory clearances.